



## CHOSEN

Why do bad things happen to good people? There is no answer to this question that can truly satisfy us, especially when we or those close to us are the ones who are suffering. Maybe only the martyrs have and are the answer. Seven monks of our monastery of Our Lady of Atlas, Algeria, are beatified today. They were not heroes but ordinary people chosen by God to experience and then be witnesses of his great love. Like our Blessed Mother, whose Immaculate Conception we celebrate today, they didn't run away but remained at the foot of the cross. They died as martyrs of love for God and his people, particularly their neighbors whom they did not want to abandon. Their story was portrayed in the movie *Of Gods and Men*. May they help us to discover how the cross in our lives can be a source of grace, the sign of being chosen for a greater love.